United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change

FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.15

Distr.: General
16 October 2014

English only

Subsidiary Body for Implementation
Forty-first session
Lima, 1–8 December 2014

Item 4(b) of the provisional agenda
Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention
Work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: long-term strategy of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document contains the long-term strategy (2015–2018) of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, its vision and goals, and the means and way forward for achieving those goals.

GE.14-18765 (E)

1418765

Please recycle

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Context	1–20	3
	A. Background and mandate	1–5	3
	B. Key challenges faced by the Consultative Group of Experts	6–10	3
	C. Evolving capacity-building needs	11–17	4
	D. Other ongoing initiatives to support capacity-building	18–20	5
II.	Vision	21–22	6
III.	Goals	23	6
IV.	Strategies	24–43	6
	A. Strategy 1.1: build the capacity of developing country Parties to facilitate the implementation of measurement, reporting and verification arrangements under the Convention	25–27	6
	B. Strategy 1.2: build the capacity of developing country Parties to facilitate the implementation of measurement, reporting and verification arrangements under the Convention	28–30	8
	C. Strategy 2: enhance the sustainability of the national communication and biennial update report process	31–34	9
	D. Strategy 3: ensure availability of resources and optimal working arrangements for the operations of the Consultative Group of Experts	35–37	10
	E. Strategy 4: enhance collaboration and cooperation with other global initiatives	38–40	11
	F. Strategy 5: enhance communication and outreach	41–43	12
V.	Implementation – going forward	44–46	13
Annex			
	Template for the annual work programme of the Consultative Group of Experts		14

I. Context

A. Background and mandate

1. The objective of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) is to improve the process of and preparation of national communications (NCs) and biennial update reports (BURs) by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) by providing technical advice and support to such Parties as well as to build the capacity of technical experts nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts for the technical analysis of BURs under the international consultation and analysis process.

2. It operates according to its rules of procedure, which were revised following the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP).[1] The COP, by decision 19/CP.19, decided to continue the CGE for a period of five years from 2014 to 2018 and that it should function in accordance with the revised terms of reference contained in the annex to that decision. By the same decision, the COP decided that the membership of the CGE should be the same as set out in decision 3/CP.8, annex, paragraphs 3–8.

3. Also by decision 19/CP.19, the COP requested the CGE to submit annually a progress report on its work to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) for consideration by the SBI at its sessions held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP. In addition, the COP decided to review the mandate and terms of reference of the CGE at COP 22, with a view to adopting a relevant decision at that session. Furthermore, the COP requested the secretariat to facilitate the work of the CGE by providing relevant administrative, logistical and technical support.

4. SBI 39 took note of the recommendations contained in the progress report of the CGE, including on a long-term perspective,[2] which could be useful in further enhancing the effectiveness of the provision of technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties in meeting their reporting requirements. It encouraged the CGE to take into consideration those recommendations, as appropriate, in developing its work programme.[3]

5. As a result, the CGE, in defining its work programme for 2014,[4] decided to develop a long-term strategy for 2015–2018.

B. Key challenges faced by the Consultative Group of Experts

6. The CGE has been developing and delivering various training programmes to non-Annex I Parties addressing different themes in relation to NCs and BURs. However, there is still a great need and demand to enhance the national capacities of non-Annex I Parties to prepare their NCs and BURs, including the preparation of their national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, with a focus on putting in place sustainable institutional arrangements. Owing to the cross-cutting nature of climate change issues across many different sectors and disciplines, dealing with them requires coordination among a wide range of national

[1] The revised rules of procedure are available at <http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/cge/application/pdf/revised_rules_of_procedure_cge_2014.pdf>.

[2] FCCC/SBI/2013/17, paragraphs 51–54.

[3] FCCC/SBI/2013/20, paragraph 25.

[4] The work programme of the CGE for 2014 is available at <www.unfccc.int/2608.php>.

institutions and other stakeholders. This requires a great deal of interdisciplinary knowledge enhancement and communication at the national level, something which is not always easily attainable in the classic set-up of ministries each being responsible for one specific national sector.

7. Non-Annex I Parties continue to face challenges in establishing and maintaining institutional arrangements on a continuous basis. This hinders the ability of Parties to fulfil their reporting requirements under the Convention as a result of loss of capacity built, lessons learned, experiences and institutional memory, inefficient management of the data and information necessary for reporting, and lack of outreach and awareness. Experience shows that the countries that have benefited the most from workshops and training seminars are those that appointed their representatives to attend them with an eye to the long term, giving the learning opportunity to national experts who will be able to carry out technical work on a continuous basis in the future, and providing incentives and career opportunities.

8. The 'one size fits all' approach is not sufficient when developing training materials. The materials need to be designed taking into account differing national and/or regional circumstances and capabilities and be better tailored to suit participants with differing levels of knowledge and expertise. The training materials also need to be revised regularly to reflect the most recent science and any developments in the reporting of developing country Parties under the Convention.

9. Despite its clear achievements over the years, the CGE has been facing uncertainties over the continuation of the group and the lack of stable and predictable financial resources to support the implementation of its work programme. This is further compounded by the fact that the CGE members assume their role in addition to their national duties.

10. Future COP decisions relating to reporting under the Convention may need to include mandates, to which the CGE may respond, for the provision of additional capacity-building support to developing country Parties.

C. Evolving capacity-building needs

11. Over time, requirements to fulfil reporting obligations mandated under the Convention and by relevant COP decisions have evolved. To address those evolving requirements, analytical methodologies are becoming more powerful and complex and, as a consequence, national measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system requirements for developing countries are also evolving. As a result, there is a need for continued capacity development in order for national teams to best use such methodologies and fulfil those reporting requirements.

12. International support provided to non-Annex I Parties has contributed to the development of those Parties' capacities to fulfil their reporting requirements. However, over time, the development of those capacities in each country has been moving at different speeds. The reality today is that some Parties are further ahead than others in terms of the capacity to develop their NCs and BURs; hence, capacity-building needs vary considerably from Party to Party. Experience with the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP)[1] has shown that generic regional workshops are becoming less effective owing to different national capacity-building needs and that, overall, capacity-building needs are, for example, moving from concerning merely developing high-quality GHG inventories to filling data gaps and improving the quality of the inventories. Experience with NCSP has also shown that significant capacity gaps still exist for developing country Parties that are small island developing States or least developed countries.

[1] See <http://ncsp.undp.org>.

13. The recent COP decisions[6] requiring non-Annex I Parties to submit NCs every four years and BURs every two years have resulted in a vast increase in capacity-building needs, at both the individual and institutional levels. The decisions are putting pressure on developing country Parties to produce high-quality reports in a timely manner, which, particularly in the case of the BURs, will be subject to technical analysis by a team of technical experts (TTE).

14. In addition, countries are increasingly recognizing that the benefits of developing GHG inventories and conducting vulnerability and adaptation and mitigation assessments go far beyond merely satisfying their reporting requirement. Increasingly, developing countries are transforming this mere reporting process into a strategic and policy support tool to meet their needs for national planning and decision-making.

15. The COP, by decision 1/CP.17, launched a process to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties, referred to as the 2015 agreement, which should be adopted at COP 21 at the latest and come into effect and be implemented from 2020. In that context, the COP, by decision 1/CP.19, invited all Parties to initiate or intensify the domestic preparation of their intended nationally determined contributions and to communicate them well in advance of COP 21 in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions.

16. Furthermore, it is likely that the existing MRV arrangements for both developed and developing country Parties will evolve, in one form or another, as a result of the discussions on transparency of action and support taking place under the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action in the context of the 2015 agreement.

17. The intended nationally determined contributions and transparency of action and support referred to in paragraphs 15 and 16 above are envisaged as an integral part of the 2015 agreement and hence are of a long-term nature. They are expected to create additional capacity-building needs for developing country Parties.

D. Other ongoing initiatives to support capacity-building

18. Under the guidance of the COP, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention – helps developing countries to undertake win-win projects, including those that reduce emissions of GHGs and promote sustainable development. It also provides financial support to non-Annex I Parties for preparing their NCs and BURs. Currently, the GEF and its partners, namely the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), are implementing the Global Support Programme (GSP), a programme similar to NCSP, to provide technical and financial support to non-Annex I Parties for developing their NCs and BURs.

19. The process of preparing the 2015 agreement launched at COP 19 requires Parties to the Convention to submit their intended nationally determined contributions by March 2015. In that context, the GEF has allocated funds for a project titled "Nationally Determined Contributions to the 2015 Agreement under the UNFCCC", which aims to support participating countries in identifying, preparing and communicating their intended nationally determined contributions in the context of the 2015 agreement.

20. Other multilateral and bilateral agencies are also financing and/or supporting many multilateral and bilateral initiatives on the ground that support developing countries in setting up and/or enhancing their MRV systems.

[6] Decisions 1/CP.16 and 2/CP.17.

II. Vision

21. Mandated by the COP, the CGE works towards providing technical support and advice in an effective, adequate and sustainable manner that significantly contributes to Parties' efforts in implementing an MRV framework under the Convention for developing country Parties.

22. That vision puts the CGE on a path to addressing the technical assistance needs of developing country Parties in meeting their reporting requirements under the Convention and to improving the technical analysis of BURs in a more objective and structured manner. The vision and strategies of the CGE respond to the needs, problems, constraints and challenges faced by developing country Parties as a result of the enhanced and evolving MRV requirements under the Convention and also address the challenges that the CGE faces in the execution of its mandate.

III. Goals

23. The overarching strategic goals of the CGE are:

(a) To support developing country Parties in fulfilling their reporting requirements under the Convention on a continuous basis by building their national capacities for the process of and preparation of NCs and BURs;

(b) To establish an environment that enables it to continue providing the technical assistance, support and advice mandated by the COP in an effective, adequate and sustainable manner, taking into consideration the challenges that it faces and potential new tasks that may be assigned to it by the COP.

IV. Strategies

24. The CGE has developed a set of strategies that is geared towards achieving its strategic goals. The strategies have been identified and developed on the basis of a needs analysis, further supplemented by the lessons learned and experiences gained by the CGE in delivering its mandate. They are formulated to respond to the needs, problems, constraints and challenges faced by developing country Parties in fulfilling their reporting requirements under the Convention and to address the emerging challenges that the CGE faces in implementing its mandate. They also cover various aspect of the work of the CGE, such as: (a) the provision of technical assistance, including capacity-building and technical support and advice; (b) operational management, including necessary resources, intersessional working modalities, and communication and outreach; and (c) collaboration and interaction by the CGE with other capacity-building initiatives.

A. Strategy 1.1: build the capacity of developing country Parties to facilitate the implementation of measurement, reporting and verification arrangements under the Convention

25. The aim of this strategy is to design and deliver capacity-building initiatives, targeting both individuals and institutions that match country-specific needs and local context and taking into account the evolving reporting needs of Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, in a comprehensive and cost-effective manner.

26. Building on the experience acquired since it was established in 1999, the CGE will pursue its mandate of supporting non-Annex I Parties in developing their national capacities to fulfil their reporting requirements under the Convention. In doing so, the group will take into account the evolving nature of those reporting requirements and the specific needs stemming from differing national circumstances and respective capabilities. The CGE will support capacity development activities, including by developing training materials and developing and delivering sustainable, effective and low-cost delivery mechanisms.

27. To implement this strategy, the CGE will:

(a) Conduct a needs analysis: this would entail taking stock of the available training resources, identifying the target audience of training activities, identifying the generic requirements for the preparation of NCs and BURs and ascertaining the key considerations in reflecting differing national circumstances. The outcomes of the analysis, at the individual, organizational and systemic levels, would form the basis for the design and delivery of subsequent training activities. Such an analysis should be conducted on a periodic basis to take into account the evolving nature of the reporting requirements implied by the latest COP decisions as well as the progression of capacity-building in the countries;

(b) Design and develop a training programme: it is important to set the objectives and expectations clearly right from the beginning in order to guide and focus the design and development of the training programme. This includes identifying the target audience and defining the substantive theme and scope of the training and delivery methods. Depending on the needs analysis, it may be more efficient and effective to develop training programmes with differing themes and levels of substantive depth tailored to different target audiences. The CGE would also develop products that indirectly contribute to capacity-building, learning-by-doing or on-the-job learning. Such products could include user manuals, toolkits, standards, accounts of good practices and lessons learned, guidelines, etc;

(c) Deliver training: the mode of or approach to the delivery of the intended training will be largely determined by the objective, expectation and target audience, which influence the scope, nature and depth of the training materials. The availability of financial resources and the practicality of each mode or approach are also aspects that need to be taken into consideration. In general, there are a number of approaches to delivering the training, some of which are already being used extensively by the CGE:

(i) In-person workshops, mainly for training that aims to cover in-depth scientific and methodological themes and involves practical and hands-on exercises. The target audience of the training would be mainly experts and trainers;

(ii) Different forms of e-learning, such as free-standing electronic materials simply hosted on a website, interactive web-based materials, moderated online bulletin boards, and recordings of in-person workshop sessions (lectures, demonstrations and exercises). This mode of training is appropriate for refresher courses, where basic background training is offered to a broader set of stakeholders involved in climate change activities at the national level. The free-standing electronic materials could also support educational efforts in national educational institutes;

(iii) Webinars and webcasts of in-person workshops, which have the potential to deliver training to a broader set of stakeholders at the national level at low cost. The webinar sessions could target training on a specific issue under a theme by providing a platform for national experts and practitioners to interact with resource persons. In addition, webcasts of in-person workshops would be a good medium to reach out to

a larger group of national experts to enhance their awareness and allow them to gain basic background knowledge;

(iv) Collaboration with regional centres of excellence and academia, whereby the CGE could assist in designing and developing training curricula for sustainable long-term professional development programmes, such as undergraduate and postgraduate university courses and programmes;

(d) Create an enabling environment: the scope and scale of the capacity needs of non-Annex I Parties is so vast that the CGE alone will never be in a position to fully meet the demands. This challenge can be addressed to a large extent by taking advantage of the interests within multilateral and bilateral entities with regard to supporting non-Annex I Parties. The CGE could play a key role in providing strategic guidance and direction to those entities to ensure that their capacity-building efforts are approached in a strategically coordinated manner, with a view to achieving synergy and complementarity among different initiatives. In this respect, the CGE could:

(i) Identify a road map to provide strategic guidance and direction for the capacity-building of non-Annex I Parties to enable the implementation of the MRV arrangements for developing country Parties under the Convention. The primary target of such a strategic product would be multilateral and bilateral agencies, academic institutes and other regional centres of excellence that are either already involved, or are planning to get involved, in supporting countries' capacity-building initiatives;

(ii) Develop information products, such as user manuals, factsheets, case studies, databases of support and resources available, etc., to facilitate access to financial and technical resources as well as support for the preparation of NCs and BURs, and make that information available to non-Annex I Parties via various web-based platforms;

(e) Enhance networking and peer exchange: the CGE will promote and enhance networking and peer exchange among national experts involved in South–South and North–South cooperation and other experts from the research and international communities by providing an appropriate platform.

B. Strategy 1.2: build the capacity of developing country Parties to facilitate the implementation of measurement, reporting and verification arrangements under the Convention

28. The aim of this strategy is to design and deliver capacity-building initiatives that respond to the needs of the team of technical experts undertaking the technical analysis of biennial update reports (BURs) under the international consultation and analysis process, while at the same time taking into account the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their BURs.

29. As stated in its terms of reference, the CGE is to provide guidance and periodic advice to the secretariat to assist it in fulfilling the selection criteria for the composition of the TTE in accordance with decision 20/CP.19. The CGE will develop and organize, with the assistance of the secretariat, appropriate training programmes for nominated technical experts, beginning in 2014. The training will focus on improving the capacity of such experts to conduct technical analyses of BURs, taking into account the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their BURs.

30. To implement this strategy, the CGE will:

(a) Conduct a needs analysis: it will engage with the experts that: (i) have been nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts; (ii) have completed the CGE training programme for the TTE; and (iii) have participated in the technical analysis of BURs, in order to understand and garner feedback on the expectations of the experts and the impacts of the training programme with respect to building their capacity;

(b) Identify effective training delivery mechanisms: in order to deliver an effective training programme, the CGE will identify efficient and effective training delivery mechanisms to reach out easily to a broad base of national experts;

(c) Adjust the training programme, including materials and delivery mode: on the basis of the needs analysis, the training programme developed in 2014 will be adjusted to ensure that it responds to the needs of the TTE in conducting technical analyses of BURs submitted by non-Annex I Parties and takes into account the difficulties encountered by those Parties in preparing their NCs and BURs;

(d) Guide the selection of the TTE: the CGE will provide guidance and periodic advice to the secretariat to assist it in fulfilling the selection criteria for the composition of the TTE and take stock of the challenges that the secretariat encounters in composing the team and provide recommendations to the SBI and the secretariat on addressing those challenges.

C. Strategy 2: enhance the sustainability of the national communication and biennial update report process

31. The aim of this strategy is to assist Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention in enhancing the sustainability of their national communication and biennial update report process.

32. In recent years, the reporting requirements for developing country Parties under the Convention, in terms of both substantive content and frequency, have been enhanced. Furthermore, developing country Parties are increasingly transforming the reporting process into a strategic and policy support tool to meet their needs for national planning, policymaking and decision-making.[7] Many Parties face complex situations in which data may be non-existent for various reasons, including unclear institutional responsibilities, difficulties in accessing the data, lack of human and institutional capacities or civil unrest. It is important that countries are aware of data gaps and have access to solutions for addressing them, which often involve extrapolation, enhancing existing data collection and archiving systems, the use of expert judgment or deriving data from other existing sources.

33. Hence, it has become essential for countries to have an NC and BUR process that is sustainable and functioning on a continuous basis. In that context, the CGE will support non-Annex I Parties in enhancing and maintaining the sustainability of their NC and BUR process. This broader approach will be integrated into the CGE training programme, taking into account the broader role of the NC and BUR process within national development.

34. To implement this strategy, the CGE will:

(a) Develop tools and guidance materials that facilitate: (i) setting up and enhancing robust institutional arrangements that function on a continuous basis; and (ii) enhancing access to financial, technical and capacity-building resources. Tools and guidance materials could be developed for, among other things, gaps and needs analysis,

[7] A survey conducted for the terminal evaluation of NCSP revealed that 71 per cent of the respondents said that the tools and methods used to develop their NCs were already used to integrate climate change into their national policies.

documentation of institutional arrangements, templates for legal or official arrangements, generic sample terms of reference for the coordinating agency, sectoral teams and data providers, mapping the minimum institutional arrangements necessary to be able to sufficiently fulfil the reporting requirements, and strategies and guidance materials to promote and enhance awareness among stakeholders, including key policymakers and political leaders;

(b) Explore and identify potential linkages and relationships between national policies and adaptation and mitigation strategies. Non-Annex I Parties are increasingly linking the reporting process under the Convention with their overall national development planning processes. The CGE will identify the potential links between national development policies and adaptation and mitigation strategies, which will be used in the training programmes it delivers. Understanding those relationships and linkages will help non-Annex I Parties to integrate and mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, as well as reporting activities, into their national development planning processes.

D. Strategy 3: ensure availability of resources and optimal working arrangements for the operations of the Consultative Group of Experts

35. The aim of this strategy is to establish an optimal working arrangement for the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and to ensure that the required resources are secured in a timely manner.

36. The CGE continues to be mandated as the primary vehicle under the Convention to address the capacity development and technical assistance needs of developing country Parties in fulfilling their reporting requirements. To fulfil its mandate and be able to carry out possible new emerging tasks, it is vital for the CGE to have financial resources that are predictable, available in a timely manner and in line with its evolving mandate. It is also vital that there are sufficient human resources available within the secretariat, which is a key partner of the CGE in delivering its mandate.

37. To implement this strategy, the CGE will:

(a) Review current working arrangements and their limitations: such a review will give the group a better understanding of its operating mode and its capacity to fulfil its mandate, including its capacity gaps and needs;

(b) Develop working arrangements, including intersessional working arrangements, to fulfil its long-term strategy: on the basis of the review, the working arrangements will be revised and improved to maximize the efficiency of the CGE, particularly its capacity to work between sessions. The option of using video conferencing tools to advance intersessional work should be explored;

(c) Develop and revise its annual workplans: the CGE will continue to prepare annual workplans, including a programme of activities. It will also assess the human and financial resources needed to execute its workplans and draw up performance monitoring indicators to measure how well it is progressing with the implementation of each annual workplan. Such an exercise should be carried out as early as possible in the year concerned or at the last meeting of the preceding year. It should also take into consideration the secretariat's budget cycle;

(d) Promote the strategy and annual workplans to potential donors in order to secure multi-year funding of the CGE action plans: the programme of action of the CGE

should be regularly promoted to potential donors in order to secure the necessary financial resources in a timely manner;

(e) Collaborate and cooperate with other multilateral initiatives: from the perspective of resource efficiency, the CGE will enhance its coordination with other multilateral initiatives and agencies, such as the GEF-funded UNDP/UNEP GSP for the preparation of NCs and BURs and relevant initiatives undertaken by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR);

(f) Report on progress annually: progress reports will be compiled at the end of each year using the performance monitoring indicators identified in each annual workplan. The reports, including the workplan for the forthcoming year and resource requirements, will be submitted to the SBI for its consideration.

E. Strategy 4: enhance collaboration and cooperation with other global initiatives

38. The aim of this strategy is to enhance the collaboration and cooperation of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) with other global initiatives, with a view to exploring synergies and expanding the outreach of the CGE.

39. In the context of fulfilling its mandate, the CGE needs to find effective and efficient mechanisms to expand its reach to non-Annex I Parties. In addition to a more conventional way of communicating with its stakeholders, the CGE will expand its collaboration and cooperation with global initiatives, including other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations agencies, multilateral programmes, international non-governmental entities, the research community and academia involved in climate change activities. In addition, there are additional expert groups and other constituted bodies under the Convention that are mandated, among other things, to contribute to the capacity-building of non-Annex I Parties within the areas addressed by them.

40. To implement this strategy, the CGE will:

(a) Identify possibilities for and develop collaboration and cooperation with other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention: under the existing arrangements, there are additional expert groups and other constituted bodies under the Convention, such as the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Adaptation Committee, the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Standing Committee on Finance, which are involved in, among other things, the capacity-building of non-Annex I Parties within their mandated areas. Among most of the areas of capacity-building addressed by the bodies there is an element of overlap, in particular those relating to assessments and reporting, and hence the CGE will make every effort to collaborate and cooperate with the bodies to ensure coherency and avoid duplication;

(b) Identify possibilities for and develop collaboration and cooperation with key global initiatives: from the perspective of resource efficiency, the CGE will enhance its coordination and collaboration with multilateral initiatives and agencies, such as GEF agencies, particularly the GEF-funded UNDP/UNEP GSP for the preparation of NCs and BURs, and United Nations agencies, including UNITAR, which seeks to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations through appropriate training and research. The CGE will also develop its collaboration and cooperation with international non-governmental organizations, the research community and academia involved in climate change activities.

F. Strategy 5: enhance communication and outreach

41. The aim of this strategy is to enhance the communication and outreach initiatives of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention in order to facilitate constant interaction with and a good flow of information between key stakeholders, including Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

42. In order to improve its long-term stability and overall effectiveness, the CGE will enhance its communication and outreach programmes so as to better interact with key stakeholders. It is not necessary to 'reinvent the wheel' constantly: ample means already exist by which the CGE and developing countries can exchange knowledge on challenges, lessons learned and best practices, ranging from online platforms to personal exchanges during regional and international workshops and training seminars. Communication and outreach can also be enhanced through South–South cooperation, which connects stakeholders with varying levels of expertise and shared languages via joint learning.

43. To implement this strategy, the CGE will:

(a) Identify global networks with which the CGE can collaborate to enhance effective and efficient interaction with stakeholders in non-Annex I Parties: a review conducted by NCSP indicated that there are existing mechanisms and networks whereby non-Annex I Parties collaborate for the development of their NCs. The CGE will identify such global mechanisms and networks and assess their potential as a tool to enhance communication and outreach between the CGE and its stakeholders;

(b) Develop communication products targeting experts and the aforementioned global networks in non-Annex I Parties: as part of supporting the development of national capacities, the CGE will develop communication products, such as newsletters and a platform to disseminate 'quick-win' ideas and information on NCs and BURs, targeting national experts;

(c) Provide and use an existing web-based platform for accessing information and guidance on the preparation of NCs and BURs: such a mechanism will provide more information and guidance to stakeholders;

(d) Develop a web platform for CGE members to collaborate between sessions and meetings: through such a mechanism, CGE members will be able to communicate and exchange information and contribute more effectively to the work of the CGE, particularly between sessions and meetings;

(e) Enhance interaction between the CGE members and their constituencies: the CGE members will create an informal network of experts and practitioners involved in the process of and preparation of NCs, by region, which will serve as a vehicle for the dissemination of relevant information from the CGE to stakeholders and which could also be used by non-Annex I Parties to seek technical advice and support from the CGE. This will allow the CGE to extend its outreach to stakeholders in a targeted manner by taking into account regional circumstances;

(f) Enhance the remote participation of the CGE in relevant events: the CGE will enhance its use of low-cost online tools and approaches, such as webinars and remote participation via video conferencing tools, for participating in relevant events hosted outside of the UNFCCC process to present its work or serve as an information resource.

V. Implementation – going forward

44. The long-term strategy of the CGE for 2015–2018 incorporates the mandate of the CGE set out in its revised terms of reference. The strategy, along with the broad work programme of the CGE for 2014–2018, will become the main guiding document for the work of the CGE in the period 2015–2018.

45. The strategies defined in this document will be operationalized through the annual work programmes of the CGE, starting with the work programme of the CGE for 2015.

46. At the first meeting of the year, the CGE, as it revises and updates its annual work programme, will identify activities and corresponding targets under each of the five strategies for the year. A template to be used to identify and capture the outcomes of such an exercise is provided in the annex. This will allow the CGE to implement its work as well as assess the progress of its implementation in an objective manner.

Annex

Template for the annual work programme of the Consultative Group of Experts

Vision	*Goals*	*Strategies*	*Year X*	
			Activities	*Targets*
Mandated by the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) works towards providing technical support and advice in an effective, adequate and sustainable manner that significantly contributes to Parties' efforts in implementing a measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) framework under the Convention for developing country Parties	(a) To support developing country Parties in fulfilling their reporting requirements under the Convention on a continuous basis by building their national capacities for the process of and preparation of national communications (NCs) and biennial update reports (BURs)	Strategy 1: build the capacity of developing country Parties to facilitate the implementation of MRV arrangements under the Convention	•	•
		Strategy 2: enhance the sustainability of the NC and BUR process	•	•
		Strategy 3: ensure availability of resources and optimal working arrangements for the operations of the CGE	•	•
	(b) To establish an environment for the CGE that enables it to continue providing technical assistance, support and advice mandated by the COP in an effective, adequate and sustainable manner, taking into consideration the challenges that it faces and potential new tasks that may be assigned to it by the COP	Strategy 4: enhance collaboration and cooperation with global initiatives	•	•
		Strategy 5: enhance communication and outreach	•	•